



MEETING THE PROJECT MANAGEMENT CHALLENGE

2004
Biography

Douglas A. "Doug" Comstock

Director of Strategic Investments, NASA HQ

Doug came to NASA in June of 2002 as the Director of Strategic Investments. He reports to the NASA Comptroller and his Division has two primary responsibilities. First is for program analysis, which includes monitoring and assessing ongoing activities to provide early warning of potential problems, assessing present and future options, and providing analysis necessary to support agency budget decisions. The second area is conducting systems analysis from an agency perspective and developing an integrated strategic management system for NASA that ties together budget formulation and investment decisions with strategic planning to ensure that NASA is making the best strategic investments. Doug is also working to build accountability into the strategic management system by defining and measuring expected performance on investments, tied directly to strategic goals and objectives. The goal is to make this new system an integral part of how NASA selects and manages its programs. A major accomplishment was the simultaneous release of a new integrated three-volume set of documents in February 2003, moving NASA significantly forward in budget and performance integration. These were the Strategic Plan, Integrated Budget and Performance Document, and Performance and Accountability Report.

Prior to joining NASA, Doug was with the White House Office of Management and Budget. He spent four years there as a Program Examiner with responsibility for NASA's space flight activities including the Space Shuttle and Space Station, as well as biological and physical research, and personnel. He worked closely with other White House offices including the Office of Science and Technology Policy and the National Security Council in helping formulate administration policies in science and space. Prior to his government service, Doug worked in the private sector, most recently as Director of Engineering at the Futron Corporation, a Bethesda, Maryland-based technology consulting firm. His work focused on developing analytical approaches and tools for better understanding complex issues to enable better decisions, for clients in Government and industry. Doug began his career with General Dynamics Space Systems Division in San Diego, California as a preliminary design engineer, and spent two years in Huntsville, Alabama as Deputy Program Manager for the Space Transportation Infrastructure Study. He did preliminary design and systems analysis for numerous aerospace systems, from strategic defense to advanced space transportation.

Doug has undergraduate degrees from the University of Washington in both Mechanical Engineering and Architecture. He did his graduate studies at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and received Masters degrees in both Aeronautics and Astronautics, and Technology and Policy.

Doug resides in Ashburn, Virginia and is married to the former Susan Louk. They have two children. He loves the outdoors, particularly when skiing or fishing.



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